

Q # 1914

Doc. No. 8312 \*

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RESTRICTED  
FOR THE WAR CRIMES OFFICE  
Judge Advocate General's Department - War Department  
United States of America

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In the matter of the use of \* Perpetuation of Testimony  
American prisoners of war on \* of Floyd Herman Comfort,  
enemy military works and \* Corporal, United States  
operations by the Japanese at \* Marine Corps, Serial No.  
Shanghai, China between 1942 \* 276883  
and 1945. \*

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Taken at: Security Intelligence Corps Field Area  
Office, Jackson, Mississippi  
Date: 14 December 1945  
In the Presence of: Jennings, Walter K., Special Agent,  
Security Intelligence Corps.  
Reporter: Jennings, Walter K.  
Questions by: Jennings, Walter K.

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- Q State your name, rank, branch of service, serial number and permanent home address.
- A Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal, United States Marine Corps, Serial No. 276883, 204 Dewitt Street, Jackson, Miss.
- Q State briefly your personal history.
- A I was born 3 October 1921 at Clinton, Miss. and was reared in Jackson, Miss. I completed the 10th grade of school and then went to work, working at various jobs for two or three years. In November 1939 I joined the Marine Corps and in October 1941 I was sent with the 1st Defense Battalion to Wake Island.
- Q Have you recently been returned to the United States from overseas?
- A Yes, I returned to the United States from Japan in October 1945.

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Q Were you a prisoner of war?

A Yes.

Q At what places were you held and state the approximate dates?

A I was taken prisoner by the Japanese on 23 December 1941 on Wake Island. From Wake we were taken to near Shanghai, China to Woo Sung, a small village. I remained there until 5 or 6 December 1942, when I was moved to Kang Won, which was just a little nearer Shanghai, and remained there until May 1945. Then we were taken to Pieng Tai near Peking, China and stayed there about a month. From there we were taken through Korea to Japan, to Hokodate Prison #3 on the island of Hokkaido, where on 16 September 1945 we were liberated by American forces.

Q Do you have any knowledge of the use of any American prisoners of war by the Japanese enemy military works or installations?

A Yes. All during the time I was at Woo Sung and Kang Won working parties of our men were used constantly in work at a place called the Shanghai Garage, which was a sort of repair depot for all kinds of military vehicles and equipment. I worked there for over a year in the welding shop, where trucks etc were repaired. I was also, along with others, used in the polishing and shining of used artillery shell cases. In addition, I was also made to work digging air raid shelters.

Q Was this the exception or the rule at your prison camp?

A It was the rule.

Q Who was responsible for this use of prisoners of war doing military work?

A The Jap Commandant of the prison, I suppose. His name was Col. Odera.

Q Do you have any more information to give on this subject?

A No.

/s/ Floyd Herman Comfort  
Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal  
United States Marine Corps

State of : Mississippi

County of : Hinds

I, Floyd Herman Comfort, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Floyd Herman Comfort  
Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal  
United States Marine Corps

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of December 1945.

/s/ Robert L. Calhoun  
ROBERT L. CALHOUN, 1st Lt., Inf.  
O-1320504, Assistant Adjutant  
Dist. 7, ASF, 4th Svc

#### C E R T I F I C A T E

"I, Walter K. Jennings, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Fourth Service Command, certify that Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal, United States Marine Corps, Serial No. 276883, personally appeared before me on 14 December 1945, and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth."

/s/ Walter K. Jennings  
Place: Jackson, Mississippi Walter K. Jennings  
Special Agent, Security Intelligence  
Date : 14 December 1945 Corps, Fourth Service Command

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答、 「ミッシンズビ」洲「ジャクソン」市「デウ  
イツト」通二〇四番地認識番號第二七六八八  
三號、米國陸戰隊伍長「フロイド・ヘーマン  
・カムフラート」

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答、 私ハ一九四一年十二月二十三日「ウエーキ」  
島デ日本人ニ依ツテ俘虜ニサレマシタ。「ウ  
エーキ」カラ我々ハ中國ノ上海附近ノ一小村  
吳淞ニツレラレテ行カレマシタ。私ハ一九四  
二年十二月五日カ六日マデ其處ニ居リソレカ  
ラ江灣ニ移サレマシタ。ソコハ上海ニ少シバ  
カリ近イ所デアリ、ソコニ一九四五年五月マ  
デ居リマシタ。

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問、 貴下ハ敵ノ軍事作業ヤ施設ニ日本人ガ米國人  
俘虜ヲ使ツタコトニ付キ何カ知ツテ居ルコト  
ガアリマスカ。

答、 ハイ、私ガ吳淞ト江灣ニ居タ全期間ヲ通ジテ  
我々ノ作業隊ハ上海「ガラード」ト云フ所デ

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絶エズ作業ニ使ハレマシタ。ソコハアラユル  
種ノ軍用車軍用器具ノ一種ノ修理場デシタ。  
私ハ貨物自動車ガ修理サレテキタ鑄接作業場  
デ一ケ年間以上居キマシタ。私ハ又他ノ人達  
ト共ニ使用シタ他種ノ乗艇ヲ越イタリ光ラセ  
タリスルノニ使ハレマシタ。ソレニ加エテ私  
ハ又防空操縦リモサセラレマシタ。

問、ソレハ貴下ノ居タ俘虜收容所ニ於ケル例外ノ  
コトデアツタカ又ハ規則ダツタノデスカ、

答、規則ダツタノデス。

問、軍事作業ヲナス俘虜ノコノ使用ニ對シテハ誰  
ガ責任者デシタカ、

答、日本人俘虜收容所長ダト思ヒマス。彼ノ名前  
ハ「オデロ」大佐デシタ。